LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

November 8, 1999

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LAST WEEK -

PRESERVATION OF LOESS HILLS - The National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee (Chairman Hansen, R-UT) of the House Resources Committee held a hearing on Thursday, November 4, to discuss the preservation of the Loess Hills in western Iowa. Rep. Greg Ganske gave testimony on its beauty and uniqueness. He went on to say the Loess Hills region is a unique landform that ranges from one to fifteen miles wide and approximately 200 miles long. Rep. Ganske said the deep loess is found only two places in the world, one is western Iowa and the other the Yellow River Valley of China. He indicated that Loess Hills provides the opportunity to study the prairie as it was hundreds of years ago. Scientific research of the hills did not begin in earnest until the 1970's. He said that the unique plants and animals of the hills need to be preserved, so our children and their children can walk among the ancient hills and experience their majesty.

Maurice Welte, Chairman of the Loess Hills Alliance testified that today's Loess Hills are in jeopardy from fill dirt removal, indiscriminate development and other human impacts. He said development pressure is prevalent in most of this unique landform and lack of coordinated planning has led to scattered developments that are threatening the scenic views and delicate prairies. He indicated that the mission of the Loess Hills Alliance is to protect special natural and cultural resources while ensuring economic viability and private property rights of the region through the creation of a common vision for the Loess Hills. Mr. Welte went on to say that partnerships between federal and state government agencies, local property owners and regional organizations will help to identify, interpret and implement a plan to protect and preserve the Loess Hills for future generations.

LOOKING AHEAD

ENERGY FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP - The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Murkowski, R-AK) will markup S. 25, a bill to provide coastal impact assistance to state and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

date TBA time TBA 366 Dirksen Bldg.

RESOURCES FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP - The House Resources Committee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) will meet to markup H.R. 701, a bill to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact Assistance to state and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978. The committee will also markup H.R. 798, a bill to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond.

date TBA time TBA 1324 Longworth Bldg.

ADJOURNMENT - November 10 is the targeted date for possible ajournment of the first session of the 108th Congress.
